

Coroner's 5¢ inquest

VOL. 2,
NO. 3

ID

(This is not a critical attack of the ID situation, it is a beneficial analysis with helpful suggestions so that next year's ID check will be more fruitful.)

Between our last issue and the present time, York students have been plagued with what is commonly called an ID check. Now it seems this is a brainstorm of the new Improve York Committee (with student members chosen by the best of free elections: administration's pick), but I must say they went about it all wrong. I mean, you might as well go all the way while your at it.

We all know that an ID check will rid us of the horrible evils lurking in our halls seen only by the eyes of York's administration. But their advertising campaign was all wrong. They said the reasons for the check were: only authorized personnel in school; ID in case of accident (sure, our IDs have only our names, school, principal, and heads, we recommend that they add our address, year in school, age, telephone number, etc. so that a person can be truly identified, oh yes, don't forget each individual's file number for the Army's secret files on each of us); comply with school regulations (gee-whiz); buy tickets for school functions and basketball games (Coroner's Inquest recommends the adoption of a "Activity Pass" at a cost of \$6); bus passes (what does this have to do with the evils in the halls?); positive identification of students (to prove that you are who you are and that you are not impersonating someone else); and entrance into student lounge (what's that?). Other reasons the gave for the check were that students from other schools are roaming our halls. Why don't they just come out and denounce the brats from IC, Elmhurst College, and the elementary schools? Boys are walking into girls' washrooms (you would too after eating a York lunch) besides, who says those boys aren't York students and if so how would an ID check help that?

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Pass "Coroner's Inquest" along to a friend (or an enemy).

ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union is an organization of lawyers who offer their services free of charge to people in need of legal aid in matters dealing with violations of the Bill of Rights.

Developing out of the Civil Liberties Bureau, an agency of the World War I American Union Against Militarism, ACLU had its start in 1920. For about the first three decades of its existence the Union depended heavily on the celebrities it stock-ed its board of directors with, hoping to gain respectability and influence through them. It wasn't until the Joseph McCarthy era that ACLU began really concentrating on challenging unconstitutional laws and practices in the courts. Still,

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SAVE

Help solve the waste pollution problem. Save all non-returnable glass containers for the May 8th collection. Between 8:30 and 11:00 am, on that date, a truck will be in the parking lot of the A-Mart Food Store at Addison and 3rd. All glass will be sent to the Kerr Glass Co. in Plainfield for recycling. Please save and bring non-returnable glass containers from such products as:

ketchup	instant drinks
mustard	pickles
wire	nuts
juice	jelly-jam
pop and beer-remove metal rings	

Tartan Track

There has been recent discussion of a new tartan track for the indoor track. The cost of this little item is \$25,000. The question is really, is there a definite need for such a thing? At such a cost? Couldn't the money be put to better use somewhere else?

First let's take a look at who will be using the track. The most obvious group will of course be the track team. It has been stated that with such a track, York can host certain prestigious track meets. But is hosting track meets an important factor? Do we need a \$25,000 track for an event which might take place a couple times a year? Aren't the coaches the only ones who benefit in the long run from such an investment? After all, it's the coach who receives the glory year after year. The coaches are the status seekers using the track as the means to obtain status. And isn't the track team just a very small minority of the total student body? Supporters of the track say (besides their egotistic reasons) that everyone will use it. Perhaps, but the majority of the students who use it only run on it for a few weeks a few minutes a day. For such a small period of time it makes no difference what you run on.

A smaller point can be raised. Is it worth it to invest in a tartan track to put in such a rotten room? The basement of the gym has horribly poor ventilation, inadequate lighting, and small area for an audience. The atmosphere of the whole room is rather depressing.

Now who pays for the new track (supposing it is approved)? Why of course, our friendly taxpayers of this area. Or are they so friendly? It seems they have rejected school bonds quite a few times in the past few years. Is it wise to use what little money they give us on a material used by a minority? Last time I checked, people everywhere in the US were complaining about their high taxes and how they are used. I'm sure the taxpayers of this area want their education tax money to be used only for education and nothing else. (Now don't tell me that an education is developing and flexing your leg muscles!)

Another thing, last time I checked, this school was in pretty rotten shape all around. It seems the ceiling is falling in a few places (does our administration know about this?) And it seems that we are also a little overcrowded here at York and will be more so next year. True our voters denied us the building bond but did they approve twenty-five grand to build egos?

ID con't

But the biggest stunt they pulled in their post-check advertising was done with the assistance of Mr. Stacy's paper "Voice of the Administration" I'm sorry, that's the "York-Hi." Their staff teamed up with a bunch of teachers and administrators who signed their names to an article (they must be scared of being robbed in the halls) attacking the minority (it should have been a majority) of students who criticized the ID check. But they seemed to have a hard time finding an excuse for the check so they pushed the blame on this minority for the tyranny that has resulted, saying that the minority used fascist tactics (look up the definition of hypocrite sometime) in destroying this school.

So Mr. Stacy's forces came on with the invincible ID check. But hark-en, lo and behold, what?, they hold it in the classrooms!!! Gee, unless a teacher is blind you would think they would know if a stranger is in their class. Maybe those teachers who wrote the article are suffering from an eye ailment.

I suggest the following:

for next year's ID check-

1. hire the John Birch Society for advertising
2. hire some expert marksmen with machine guns and enforce a version of M. Daley's famous battle cry: shoot to maim litterbugs, shoot to kill intruders and vandals
3. no more of this pussy-footing around with a check in the classrooms, go in style, have men with pistols roam the halls frisking students for IDs

for all of next year-

1. palm print, fingerprint, and voice identification units at every entrance to pick out intruders
2. closed circuit TV of the johns for puffers and people who have forgotten their sex
3. the abolishment of the "York-Hi's" rah-rah administration viewpoint and to get down in that paper to the nitty-gritty problems of our administration.

COMICS

A great change is presently occurring in comics, a change that is altering the direction that comics will go. This shift probably went unknown to those who once read comic books but stopped and to those who never read comics at all. They no doubt still think of comics only as super heroes battling super villains trying to conquer the world in a super plot, and always winning because of their super powers. This is still true to some extent, but no longer is it the rule.

Within the past year, writers of comics have been putting their characters into situations dealing with relevant, social problems. Pollution, racism, Vietnam, drugs, and repression are all topics that have been dealt with in comic books.

Of the two major comic groups, Marvel and D.C., Marvel has shown more interest in including real world problems into their comics. Almost every issue of "Daredevil" since the turning point in comics has been a dramatization of real world events. Daredevil, a blind super hero with highly developed senses, enabling him to sense his surroundings more accurately than a sighted person, has been involved with a maniac judge who seeks vengeance on all radicals, a bombing at a hotel where the vice-president is staying, and a South American revolutionary group that kidnaps an American diplomat. Unlike the real world, Daredevil always wins and justice is always upheld, but some pretty strong political comments are made.

Another Marvel character, Spiderman, has also gone into discussing current issues. Disregarding an important part of the Comic Book Code forbidding discussion of drugs, drug use has been portrayed. Harry Osborn, roommate of Peter Parker (the alter-ego of Spiderman) uses pills heavily and in the current issue overdoses himself to near death. Racism has also been discussed in a few issues of Spiderman. One story has a black newspaper editor kidnapped by a dishonest, law and order politician running for public office to prevent him from telling the truth about his hatred of black people. In the middle of a rally for the politician, Spiderman bursts in and tells all preventing the man from being elected. "Spiderman" comics has shown itself to be interested in portraying of society's social ills, but all too often, Spiderman's personal problems get in the way of things.

Of the D.C. comics group, only one comic stands out with regard to contemporary problems. "Green Lantern-Green Arrow" always has the two super heroes involved in some human situation, working and fighting with humans, and not only with super power beings. Green Lantern and Green Arrow have fought against a slumlord in support of a black community.



COMICS con't

Women's Liberation has also been dealt in a realistic way. Black Canary, a woman with incredible fighting ability and occasional girlfriend of Green Arrow gets kidnapped by feminists out of the past and then joins their cause in a quest for total equality. True to most real men, Green Lantern and Green Arrow do their best to knock and ridicule women's liberation, but in the end decide that it is not all that bad. In one story, Green Lantern and Green Arrow along with a Guardian (it would take a long time to explain who a Guardian is, but briefly, he is one of a group that control the Green Lanterns that exist on many worlds) are tried for destroying a world by a judge who bears a strong resemblance to one infamous Chicago federal judge and by a jury of cranking mechanical robots who repeat what the judge tells them to say. On the cover of the current "Green Lantern-Green Arrow", the two super heroes are cowering away from a character who looks remarkably like a well known public figure, noted for his mouth and bad golf, saying "Never again will super heroes interfere with our orderly worlds! Destroy them!" Of both Marvel and D.C., "Green Lantern-Green Arrow" is by far the most political and the most important comic.

With the notable exception of "Green Lantern-Green Arrow", comic books have still not gotten completely away from the super villain-trying-to-take-over-the-world idea and many times the problems of man are the result of super criminals. Groups striving for social change are often the dopes of a super villain who uses these groups for his own purposes. By always linking world problems with the actions of super powered beings, comics are destroying the means to make social comment and present different opinions. Always having to involve the standard super characters causes the plots to get more and more ridiculous. Until the majority of comics realize, as the writers of "Green Lantern-Green Arrow" have, comics don't have to be dependent on creatures with super powers, all of the advancements comics have made will be turned back.

CORONER'S INQUEST

OUR 7th ISSUE

J. Williams, S. Swords, D. Wall, D. Kreski, J. Stoddard, plus additional distributors.
Sponsor-Mr. Crandall
The 5¢ charge covers only the cost for printing.

BOSS-A Review

Political bossism flourished in this country when immigrants came from Europe, and settled in little enclaves in our major cities. Unskilled and not knowing the language, these ethnic groups--Irish, Poles, Italians, and others--clung together in local neighborhoods, taking jobs in factories or performing service functions.

The political boss exploited this situation. He cultivated the fear these newcomers had for their new land. In return for their vote, the boss gave them regular garbage delivery, gave them help with jobs, fixed parking tickets, and gave money at low economic moments. Over each section of the city, sub-bosses reigned. Their task was to bring in votes. If they didn't, they were removed.

On this base, the big city boss built his machine. His lieutenants would keep the troops happy and bring in the votes. The boss would give the lieutenants enough opportunity for small graft so they would be happy, and he gave the city bigwigs enough power and money to keep them looking away when he made sure the election went his way.

As the years passed, the ethnic minorities began to mingle. They moved to new neighborhoods, or out into the suburbs. No longer Irish, Italians, or Poles, they became Americans. The city machine began to crumble, as the source of their power--the ethnic enclaves--disintegrated. Of particular importance was the fact that as the most recent ethnic minority--the blacks--appeared, they were not given the same opportunity to mingle with city power. Endemic racism kept the blacks in a special class, voting for the machine, but receiving very little in return.

Cities like New York literally fell apart at the city hall level. Bossism disappeared, and even an attractive mayor like John Lindsay couldn't govern the city with the efficiency of the former city dictators. The money-centers continued but power shifted from one enclave to the other, making it difficult to know what leader to see to get your particular cut. By the end of World War II, big city bossism had almost disappeared from the American scene. Except Chicago.

The enclaves in Chicago remained firm until well into the 1950s. During that time, the biggest boss of them all came into power. His

"Underground" Radio Stations

The advantage of these stations are a combination of heavy music (generally rock, blues, folk, and some classical), plus few commercials (on some stations, none at all). Of those commercials, all or nearly all are low-key and in good taste.

FM

WGLD 102.7 (daily except Sunday)
 WDAI 94.7
 WXFM 106.0 (TRIAD, daily 8-12 pm)
 WEAW 105.0 (Radio Free Chicago, daily to midnight, back on air as of April 23)
 WRSE 88.7 (Sat. only, noon to mid)
 WSDM 96.0 (more of a jazz format)
 WBBM 96.0 (sort of a watered-down rock)

AM

WVON 1450 (soul music)
 WGRT 950 (soul music)

Attendance

There is a state law governing public school funding that says every time a student is absent from school legitimately or not, the school funds are decreased proportionately. The effect of this law means that some school systems in Illinois lose a large amount of funds in state aid. A school such as York, with approximately 5% absenteeism, loses several thousand dollars for District 88. This law hits hardest the schools in Chicago where the absenteeism rate may be 15-20 percent, causing a system to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars which is rightfully theirs.

At the present funding rate, one day's absence by one student decreases District 88's aid by about 50 cents. At the current absenteeism figure of 5%, our school district loses \$93.50 per student per year. Multiply \$93.50 by the number of students at York or in District 88 and you will arrive at the total amount lost due to this unfair state law.

State Representative Anthony Scariano (D.) has proposed to this year's General Assembly HB 578 which changes the school aid formula to student membership. His bill raises minimum aid to \$600 per pupil. Assigned to the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education (Rep. Gene Hoffman, R.-Elmhurst is a member), the bill is awaiting determination of fiscal feasibility. The estimated total cost - \$283 million. Basically this means state aid to schools will be determined by enrollment rather than attendance.

Freedom & Responsibility

Freedom is another word for nothing left to lose - Janis Joplin

No matter which political philosophy one embraces, there is little denying that conservative Dist. 88 and Elmhurst, Illinois have moved to a bit of long needed liberalization of certain school policies. The following changes I have noted in the past two years:

1. removal of dress code
2. open campus
3. no mandatory study halls
4. no boring home rooms
5. shorter classes
6. establishment of student lounge

What projected the above decisions, however, was more the result of recent court decisions and economic difficulty than an affirmation of faith in the student body.

Any faculty member arguing for less restriction and more responsibility for the students has always been met by another arguing for the opposite. The 88 plan provided a testing situation to ascertain whether students could be responsible or not. Most faculty members will agree that the vast majority (95%) of the students have taken their responsibility seriously. What concerns them is the relatively few who use their free time to destroy the building, grounds, etc. This caused such concern that a rather aggressive "Improve York" committee was established and with it came such ideas as compulsory ID check.

Students are now clamoring for more freedom and less controls, but their chances of getting their demands will depend on how they convince the faculty, administration, and community that they can handle the new freedoms they desire. Failure to police themselves, however, could result in a reversal of policy and more stringent controls as it has in other school districts (Leyden HS left modular schedulity to go back to traditional for frosh-soph next year because of an average of 1500 cuts a period). I have always been impressed with the appearance and maturity of York students. I'm convinced the 88 plan is a step in the right direction. I'm confident that the minor problems that do exist can be worked out. The burden of proof is on the students to prove my prediction. I'm sure they will!

Mr. Stege

THANKS

We received over \$4.00 in contributions from last issue. Thanks.

ACLU con't

the Union did build up a record of important legal landmarks, including, among others, the famous "Monkey Trial" evolution case, defended by ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow.

Today the Union has a membership of over 800 lawyers working on cases without pay, and a board of about 80 directors who set the guidelines that determine what kind of cases will be taken by Union lawyers. These guidelines are such that generally any case where a violation of constitutional rights can be reasonably argued will be defended. The beliefs or practices of the person or group are not considered, despite how unpopular or how much they differ with ACLU's own principles (for example Jewish ACLU lawyers have defended Nazis in freedom of speech cases). On the other hand ACLU will not defend any case that its board of directors has decided does not involve constitutional issues. This has led the Union to refuse to defend draft resistance cases, among others, on the grounds that the laws are constitutional.

The rights of high school students are among those protected by the Bill of Rights and in the past, ACLU has defended these rights in court (without fee). If you are in need of legal assistance, the Union's Chicago office is located at 6 South Clark St.

Information about student rights can be obtained by writing: The American Civil Liberties Union, 156 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010.

THINK ABOUT IT!

Two weeks ago, President Nixon made this statement, "...if the United States were to fail in Vietnam, if the Communists were to take over, the blood bath that would follow would be a blot on this nation's history."



BOSS con't

name is Richard J. Daley, a product of the South Side Irish and one of the most effective bosses American politics has ever known. The story of Daley's rise to power, his manipulation of people (and the English language) is told in delightful detail in Mike Royko's new book, Boss (Dutton, \$5.95). This book is an extension of the column that Royko writes for the Chicago Daily News. It reflects Royko's understanding of the Chicago political scene, gained as a product of one of the city ethnic enclaves (his Polish father ran a tavern), and as a reporter for a Chicago paper that has consistently fussed at the mayor over his leadership, and just as consistently supported him for reelection.

Boss is a biased book, for Royko is a biased writer. He admires Daley's political skills, but he deplors his insensitivity to those outside his personal orbit of understanding--blacks, radicals, intellectuals, and the youth. Royko must be criticized for his many unattributed references in the book. He gives unnamed sources as references for quotes, and they all provide a pattern of Daley as the shallow power-broker. But this is no objective, careful study. Boss is an informed, whimsical cry of outrage against the evil of bossism. Forget about those fancy text-books about American democracy. If you want to know how the big cities of this country have been governed with a combination of fear, graft and paternalism, read Royko.

Daley is an anachronism, of course. His kind of political power depends on a voting constituency that is fearful of its neighborhood enclave, uninterested in matters beyond the local area, and willing to give up thinking in return for a measure of security. Daley is an American dictator, controlling the press by running a clean administration and governing an ungovernable city in which the press wants to function. Like Mussolini, he makes the trains run on time, and like Hitler, he builds big highways. But his city is changing. It is filling up with blacks, an ethnic minority he has never understood. The Uncle Tomism he has used to keep blacks compliant will not last into the 1970s. Black leaders like Jesse Jackson are emerging to challenge the Daley power. But until this change occurs, Boss is a book that tells it like it is in Daley-land.

Contributor